# BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

**1956.**

# 1956

# BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

*Mayor :*

COUNCILLOR T. E. HOLTON

*Deputy Mayor:*

ALDERMAN A. E. BUSBY

## Public Health Committee

*(Full Council)*

Chairman : Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Alderman P. J. Small

Coun. J. S. Butler
,, W. Krohn
,, J. Edmonds
,, F. E. Y. Fleet
,, H. E. Cornwall
,, C. V. P. Airey

Alderman S. G. Williams

Coun. R. J. W. Bodenham, J.P., M.A.
,, T. Lambourne
,, Lieut.-Col. L. H. Worlledge
,, A. G. F. Marriott
,, A. M. Hudson

## Public Health Staff:

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

DR. F. SEYMOUR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Health Inspector :*

R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

*Secretary :*

MISS A. CRANWELL.

# BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Town Hall,
Buckingham.
18th June, 1957.

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors
of the Borough of Buckingham.

Mr. Mayor, My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1956.

The Birth Rate which had shown a drop the previous year has shown a satisfactory rise to 17.1

The Death Rate has remained steady and is the same as that for the County as a whole, and almost 2 points lower than the rate for England and Wales. Of the 42 deaths, Heart and allied diseases and Cancer accounted for 24.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is most satisfactory in that there were no deaths in this group.

The most important advance in the fight against Infectious Disease was the introduction last year of vaccination against Anterior Poliomyelitis. Unfortunately the supplies of vaccine were very limited, and large numbers of children were not able to take advantage of this new measure. We are promised that large and more frequent supplies will be available during 1957.

I should like to record again my thanks to your Town Clerk, Mr. Archdeacon, your Borough Surveyor and Health Inspector, Mr. Rennie Taylor, and their staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Daniel H. Waldron.

## A. Vital Statistics.

| | | | 1955 | 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ... ... ... | | | 5367 | 5367 |
| Population ... ... .. | | | *4120 | 4130 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses ... | | | 1548 | 1561 |
| Rateable Value ... ... ... | | | £26,643 | £50.839 |
| Rate per £1 ... ... ... | | | 27/- | 18/5 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... | | | £108 | £207 |
| BIRTHS: | M. | F. | | |
| Legitimate ... | 30 | 31 | 54 | 61 |
| Illegitimate ... | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 population ... | | | 14.7 | 17.1 |
| ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) ... | | | 15.4 | 16.3 |
| ,, ,, ,, (England & Wales) | | | 15.0 | 15.7 |
| Still Births ... ... ... | | | Nil | 2 |
| | M. | F. | | |
| DEATHS ... | 18 | 24 | 48 | 42 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population ... | | | 10.5 | 9.9 |
| ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) ... | | | 9.8 | 9.9 |
| ,, ,, ,, (England & Wales) | | | 11.7 | 11.7 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate ... ... | | | Nil | Nil |
| ,, ,, ,, (Bucks) ... | | | 0.31 | 0.43 |
| ,, ,, ,, (England & Wales) | | | 0.64 | 0.56 |
| INFANTILE MORTALITY | | | | |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births ... ... | | | 17.5 | Nil |
| ,, (Bucks) ... | | | 20.0 | 17.1 |
| ,, (England & Wales) | | | 24.9 | 23.8 |

* Estimated Mid. 1956.

| Principal Causes of Death: | 1955 | | | 1956 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M | F | T | M | F | T |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Tuberculosis ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancer ... ... ... ... | 6 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Diabetes ... ... ... ... | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ... | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Heart Disease ... ... ... | 13 | 6 | 19 | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Digestive Diseases ... ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital Causes ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nephritis ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Violence ... ... .. ... | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| All other Causes ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Totals | 32 | 16 | 48 | 18 | 24 | 42 |

## B. General Provision of Health Services.

### 1. Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have to be sent to Haywards Heath.

### 2. Ambulance Services.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One sitting case car was stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented when necessary with ambulances from Bletchley.

### 3. Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

### 4. Clinical and Treatment Centres.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the Centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance

of children throughout the year was 375. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield Morris Hospital.

(c) Chest Clinic.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.
6. Creaton Sanatorium.
7. Royal Bucks.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service. During the year 32 cases were assisted.

## C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained.

Waste water detection was carried out during the year, and the daily consumption averaged $36\frac{5}{8}$ gallons per head of the population. The amount of water consumed during the year was 55,263,000 gallons and the amount pumped from the deep well was 43,712,300 gallons.

Fifteen bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all of which were satisfactory.

One chemical analysis was made which showed the following results :—

## Chemical Analysis of Public Water.

| | Parts per 100,000 | Grains per Gallon |
|---|---|---|
| Total solids (dried at 180° C.) ... ... | 48.0 | 33.6 |
| Combined chlorine (Cl) ... ... ... | 2.0 | 1.4 |
| Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl) | 3.3 | 2.3 |
| Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates) ... ... | 0.12 | 0.08 |
| Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites) ... ... | Nil | Nil |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen ... ... ... | Nil | Nil |
| Albuminoid nitrogen ... ... ... | 0.0010 | 0.0007 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. ... | 0.011 | 0.008 |
| Lead or Copper ... ... ... | Nil | Nil |
| Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca Co3) | 22.5 | 15.8 |
| Permanent hardness ( ,, ,, ,, ) | 9.0 | 6.3 |
| Total hardness ( ,, ,, ,, ) | 31.5 | 22.1 |

## 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham area, have continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

It is hoped that a start on the new Works will be made before the Winter of 1957/58.

## 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected once a fortnight in the Rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, one tip being situated in the Bourton Road area and the other in the Gawcott area.

Negotiations are being proceeded with for an alternative tipping arrangement in Stratford Road, and it is hoped that these will be satisfactorily completed early in 1957.

## 4. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Despite unfavourable weather conditions during the 1956 season, the Buckingham Swimming Pool continued to be highly popular and successful, and certain improvements were made.

Again the Education Committee and local private schools took full advantage of the bathing facilities during the summer term.

## 5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

## D. Housing.

During the year 23 families were re-housed and 6 new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year. It is hoped that a start will be made on 50 "Reema" Houses during the early part of 1957.

## E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1955.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYE-LAWS, ETC.

| | |
|---|---|
| Complaints received and investigated ... ... | 612 |
| Nuisances, etc., found without complaint ... ... | 10 |
| Nuisances, etc., abated ... ... ... ... | 591 |
| Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts | 1 |
| Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts | 35 |
| Prosecutions ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |

HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Dairies and Cowsheds ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| Butchers' Shops ... ... ... ... | 18 |
| Slaughter Houses ... ... ... ... | 156 |
| Foodshops ... ... ... ... ... | 42 |
| Visits under the Tuberculosis Order ... ... | 2 |
| Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases) ... | 14 |
| Miscellaneous visits ... ... ... ... | 100 |
| | 351 |

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

30 houses have been scheduled for inclusion in Clearance Areas, or to be dealt with as individual unfit houses, during the next 5 years.

It should be appreciated of course that the ability to deal with these houses will depend largely upon the Council's Housing Committee being able to provide alternative accommodation on the housing estates for the displaced families.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mechanical Factories on the Register ... ... | 25 |
| Non-mechanical Factories ... ... ... | 2 |
| Visits paid to Factories ... .. ... ... | 19 |

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATION, 1949.

Retail premises and distributors continue to be under the control of this Council and are required to be registered and subject to periodic inspection.

Two large receiving depots in the district were visited from time to time during the year, and conditions found to be satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Two Slaughterhouses in Buckingham operate privately. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo, 62, Foods, was carried out.

156 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 135 Beasts, 614 Sheep, 1 Calf and 127 Pigs were slaughtered during the year.

Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 82 and falling into the following categories :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Cafes and Restaurants ... ... | 7 |
| Public Houses ... ... ... | 17 |
| Stalls ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Canteens ... . .. | 15 |
| Food Shops ... ... ... | 33 |
| Dairies ... ... ... ... | 3 |

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act is 22, and all such premises are regularly inspected.

It is interesting to note that with regard to the sale of ice cream, the tendency is to concentrate wholly on prepacked products, which removes to a large extent the possibility of contamination occurring.

No clean food campaigns have been sponsored during the period.

All food premises have been supplied with extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations, and this, together with advice, has resulted in much improvement.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

| | |
|---|---|
| Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit ... | 29 |
| Inspection of Petroleum Stores ... ... ... | 18 |

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDER, 1919.

RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of complaints received ... ... ... | 29 |
| Number of premises treated for rats ... ... | 35 |
| Number of premises treated for mice ... ... | 6 |
| Estimated number of rats destroyed ... ... | 214 |
| Actual rats' bodies found ... ... ... ... | 151 |
| Visits for Inspection and Survey ... ... ... | 75 |
| Visits for Baiting and Extermination ... ... | 156 |

RENNIE TAYLOR,
*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.*

## F. Prevalance of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

1. GENERAL.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was very low during the year.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

| | 1955 | 1956 |
|---|---|---|
| Measles ... ... ... ... | 25 | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis (Paral) ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Food Poisoning ... ... ... ... | — | 3 |
| Whooping Cough ... ... ... | — | 1 |

3. CANCER.

There were 7 deaths from this disease during the year.

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Five new cases were notified but it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths. Two of the cases notified were transfers into the district.

D. H. WALDRON,
*Medical Officer of Health.*